



# ***MORTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE***

*Kyle L. Kirchmeier, Sheriff*



## **News Release**

For Immediate Release

July 17, 2018

Contact: Morton County PIO Maxine Herr (701) 426-1587

Website: <http://www.co.morton.nd.us/>

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### **Plane goes down into Missouri River, killing pilot**

**Mandan, N.D.** – An out-of-state, 35-year-old male was found dead in the cockpit of a small aircraft that went down just north of the Fort Rice Recreation Area south of Mandan this afternoon.

The identity of the man is being withheld until authorities can make contact with next of kin.

At approximately 2:30pm today, a witness called 9-1-1 after observing the plane flying at a low altitude and going into the Missouri River. The water depth at the location of the crash is around five to six feet due to an underwater sandbar, so the plane was only partially submerged.

First responders were able to extract the pilot from the cockpit and the body was transferred to the medical examiner's office.

The Morton County Sheriff's Office will assemble a team and equipment in the morning to attempt to remove the aircraft from the river. Once the aircraft is recovered, the Federal Aviation Administration will conduct their investigation of the cause of the crash.

Metro Ambulance, Mandan Rural Fire, Burleigh County Dive, Rescue and Recovery Team, Emmons County Sheriff's Office, and Morton County Sheriff's Office Dive team also responded to this incident.

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